Replacement of word 'Rape' with 'Sexual Assault'

1568. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Commission for Women has recommended for replacing the word "Rape" with "Sexual Assault" in all Acts since word "rape" is derogatory to women;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Police Chiefs of the States and Home Ministry have endorsed this recommendation of NCW;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some sections of the society are demanding for dropping Section 377 of IPC; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and what the Ministry has done in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The National Commission for Women has not so far recommended for replacing the word "Rape" with "Sexual Assault" in all Acts. However the NCW agreed to the Law Commission's proposal to replace "Rape" with "Sexual Assault" in Section 375 of the IPC.

(c) and (d) Naz Foundation, a Non-Governmental Organization approached the Delhi High Court and the Supreme Court, challenging the Constitutional validity of Section 377 of IPC. However, the Government in an affidavit filed in the Court did not favour deletion of the Section, Law Commission of India in its 172nd report on 'Review of Rape Laws' has recommended, among other things, to delete Sections 377 of IPC and take steps to protect children from sexual abuse. The Government have not taken a final decision on the recommendations.

Al-Qaida Militants in India

†1569. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Al-Qaida has spread its footing in India also and has been carrying out terrorist activities in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of Al-Qaida militants caught during the last five years and places known to the Government having Al-Qaida network?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) to (c) Available inputs do not suggest direct presence of Al-Qaida in the country.

Atrocities on Dalit Women

1570. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the different types of atrocities committed against dalit women during the year 2003-2004 and 2005 and the extent of the atrocities, State-wise; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to prevent such atrocities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) compiles the annual crime statistics on the basis of reports received from State Governments/UT Administrations. NCRB has reported that crimes committed against Scheduled Castes are collected under ten different heads. Out of these heads, only "rape" is the specific head of atrocity committed against dalit women and the details of rape cases reported during the year 2002-2004 and upto June, 2005 are placed at Statements I and II respectively (*See* Below). Gender-wise information for crime against Scheduled Castes is not collected by NCRB.

(b) Under the 7th schedule to the Constitution of India, 'Police' and 'Public Order' are State subjects and as such, it is the responsibility of the State Governments to effectively implement the SCs & STs (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 and other legal provisions pertaining to safety and security of women and take deterrent action against the persons found guilty. However, The Union Government has from time to time been issuing advisories to all the State Governments and UT Administrations to strictly implement the above provisions.